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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 786
By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Tonja Crabtree on her selection as Teacher of the Year for Burchfield Elementary School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Tonja Crabtree is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, she has recently been selected as Teacher of the Year for Burchfield Elementary School, an honor most befitting her exemplary tenure as a teacher, as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, a sterling scholar, Ms. Crabtree received her Associate Degree from Roane State Community College and her Bachelor's Degree from Tennessee Technological University; and

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WHEREAS, compelled to make a positive difference in the world and inspired by her own teachers during her academic career, she decided to enter into the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, Tonja Crabtree has served with distinction as a full-time educator for seven years; currently, she teaches seventh and eighth grade math, science, and history classes at Burchfield Elementary; and

WHEREAS, concerned with the emotional well-being as well as the academic progress of her students, Ms. Crabtree strives daily to help her students feel that their input and actions are important; and

WHEREAS, she is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, the epitome of the dedicated teacher, Tonja Crabtree has been a valued member of the National Education Association and the Tennessee Education Association since 1995; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her recognition as the Burchfield Elementary School Tennessee Teacher of the Year, Ms. Crabtree has been awarded *Who's Who Among Teachers* for 2002; and

WHEREAS, a conscientious member of the Scott County community, she serves as the Recreational Counselor for the Burchfield Center; under her astute leadership, the recreational program gives teens the opportunity to interact with other teens in their community through recreational activities conducted after school and during the summer; and

WHEREAS, Tonja Crabtree graciously volunteers with the Pine Grove Youth Group, which distributes food to the elderly during the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, a talented vocalist, Ms. Crabtree is a member of "Fully Persuaded," a gospel singing group which performs evangelistic work throughout Tennessee and Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, she has consistently worked to encourage her students to do their best and give their best; her evident joy and pleasure in working with children has produced enthusiasm for learning among the students in her classroom; and

WHEREAS, Tonja Crabtree truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel is highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Crabtree exemplifies the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Tonja Crabtree on being named Teacher of the Year for Burchfield Elementary School, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend to her our best wishes for success and happiness in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.